

L. H. J. your Honour our most humble and hearty thanks for giving us this Opportunity (However Inconvenient it may be to us with regard to our private Concerns) of Consulting a Matter of such great Importance to our Country as the Amendment of our Staple.

And We are truly Sorry for and Condole with your Honour on the Cause of your Affliction as well as your own Indisposition.

We Acknowledg with the Deepest sense of Gratitude, your regard to the Welfare of this Province & Compliance with the joint Address of both Houses of Assembly in Concerting a Correspondence with Virginia; The people of which Colony cannot but be Convinced as we are, that their Welfare as well as ours depends on the Amendment of our Common Staple Tobacco. And that whether we Pursue the Same or Different means the End ought to be the Same.

As to the Scheme your Honour has been pleased to Communicate to us We shall take the same as well as Every thing Else that shall Occur or be proposed to us into our most Serious Consideration and Endeavour to the best of our understanding to form such a Tobacco Law as may remove Some of the Miserys under which our Country at present Groans & do all we Can to dispatch the other Publick Business with the least Expence to the people we represent.

Your Honour's Wishes that wisdom and Moderation may Direct your Councils and the Assurances you have been Pleased to give us, of your Inclination to Advance our real Happiness, not only deserves our most thankfull Acknowledgments but ought to Excite us, as we hope it will, to Act with the Greatest Zeal and unanimity in the
p. 182 Service of our Country under a firm reliance on your Concurrence with us in the means which never were more Necessary than at this juncture.

Signed by Order of the House John Mackall, Speaker
May 22^d 1730.

They return & acquaint M^r Speaker they presented the Same.

M^r Kirk Appeared in the House this Afternoon

The Question being put whether this House should first proceed to Consider of a Tobacco Law or for the Appointment of an Agent in Great Britain.

Resolved that the House first proceed to Consider of a Tobacco Law

The Question being put whether a bill should be prepared for the Amendment of the Staple of Tobacco or not, Resolved in the Affirmative.

The Question being Put whether in the Tobacco Bill to be prepared the Restriction shall be to a Number of Plants or to a Number of Pounds.

Resolved that the Restriction be to a Number of Plants.